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LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Two months after the political changes that took place in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, I have the great honour to write you this letter in order to update you on the social and political developments that have taken place in my country since then.

I consider this letter to be all the more necessary as a vigorous campaign of disinformation is being waged here and elsewhere with the clear intention of discrediting the new national authorities, despite the fact that it is thanks to them that social peace has been preserved in our country.

As you are aware, Sir, our country was on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe which was just barely averted, thanks to the intervention of the Comorian Armed Forces.

In fact, at a time when hate, xenophobia and barbarism were poised to triumph over the fraternity of a people - the Comorian people united by the same blood, the same cultural values, the same land and the same history - the National Development Army had no alternative but to intervene.

As subsequent events have shown, the National Development Army has succeeded in restoring civil peace in our country and in putting an end to the cycle of violence that threatened to lead it down into a spiral of "insular cleansing".

This, moreover, is why the intervention of the Comorian Armed Forces has gained the support of all sectors of the Comorian population as well as of a majority of the local political parties which had been overtaken by the events.

Furthermore, the series of dialogues and consultations which the new authorities undertook with the various sectors of our country, including political parties, trade unions, village communities and civil society, has resulted in significant progress towards national reconciliation.

The effectiveness of this reconciliation depends to a large extent on the implementation of the so-called Antananarivo Agreement, which remains the guarantor of the peaceful coexistence of all Comorians, regardless of their island of origin and the broader autonomy demanded by each island.

In this regard, the new national authorities, led by His Excellency Colonel Azall Assoumani, Head of State of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, have unambiguously reaffirmed their intention to respect the spirit of the Agreement.

To this end, the commissions provided for in the Agreement have already been established and the timetable set for the electoral process that should lead to the election of the next President of the Comoros.

All of these positive developments, which respond to the wishes expressed at Antananarivo by the different Comorian islands, have led certain political parties, despite their initial reluctance, to support the new dynamic set in train by the Head of State, Colonel Azall Assoumani.

A resolution, a copy of which is attached hereto (see annex), has been signed and transmitted by a large majority of political parties in the Comoros to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, urging him to review the position adopted by our Pan-African organization with regard to the situation in the Comoros.

Despite the restoration of internal stability and the positive developments under way in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the climate of cohesion and harmony that currently prevails at the national level is being severely threatened at the international level.

The false allegations being spread about seem to suggest that certain sectors are seeking to punish the new authorities of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for having saved our country from anarchy and barbarism.

The intransigent attitude adopted by some, including OAU, towards the new authorities of my country defies understanding upon close examination.

This is so despite the fact that, since assuming the leadership of my country, the Comorian authorities, who have been accepted by the entire population, have repeatedly declared their willingness to work together with all friendly countries and regional and international institutions to ensure the success of the transition period and to implement the Antananarivo Agreement.

Far from being inflexible and radical, the statements made by France, our main development partner, reflect the very responsible concern to see the Antananarivo Agreement implemented by all Comorians.

The position adopted by the International Francophone Organization on the situation in the Comoros follows similar lines.

In the face of this patent lack of understanding, I should be grateful, Sir, if you would be kind enough to use your authority to intercede with the

member States of the United Nations Security Council on behalf of my country, which, more than ever, needs the active support of the international community.

On instructions from my Government, I request that you have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahamoud ABOUD
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Resolution

Considering the various consultations undertaken between the new authorities, the political parties and the signatories to the Antananarivo Agreement of 23 April 1999 for the purpose of reviewing the modalities for the implementation of the above-mentioned Agreement,

Considering that the persistence of separatism is of great concern to the Comorian people and a major challenge at this the end of the second millennium,

Considering that the Comorian inter-island conference held at Antananarivo and the resulting agreement are major milestones and a useful foundation for pursuing the efforts begun by the people of the Comoros with the firm support and solidarity of the international community, especially the Organization of African Unity and the States of the subregion, to restore the unity and territorial integrity of the nation,

Taking into account the evolution of the situation in the islands and the political changes that have taken place since the Antananarivo conference,

Considering the declared intention of the national authorities to respect the spirit of the Agreement by effectively involving the parties in its implementation,

Noting the desire and ardent wish of all the political, economic and social actors in the Comoros to see the country return as early as possible to a normal and stable republican system capable of bringing about economic and social development through the establishment of a new institutional framework,

Fearing dangerous diversions that could result in excessive delays in the signing of the Agreement by the Anjouan side and in the implementation of its provisions,

The Comorian parties who have signed this resolution,

1. Call on all Comorians in our islands, and in particular those in Anjouan, to defend the higher interests of our common nation;

2. Urgently appeal to the international community to continue to support the Comorian people in the extremely difficult situation which they are currently experiencing;

3. Request the Organization of African Unity, in its capacity as chairman of the committee for the follow-up of the Antananarivo Agreement, to take all necessary steps to convene as early as possible the meeting of the above-mentioned committee;

4. Take this opportunity to thank the international community, and in particular the Organization of African Unity, for its efforts to find a solution

to the Comorian crisis and to affirm their determination to do everything possible to ensure the establishment of the institutions of the new Comorian State.

Done at Moroni, on .....

Group	Name	Signature
Ngazidja delegation (party to the Agreement)	Ali Toihir	
Mwali delegation (party to the Agreement)	Mohibaca Baco	
PASOCO (formerly a federation, party to the Agreement)	Dr. Ahmed Affandi Ali	
RND (party to the Agreement)	Ibrahim Mze Abdallah	
RND Rénovateur (party to the Agreement)	Soulaimana Ahmada	
FNJ (party to the Agreement)	Djaffar Abdallah	
PRC (party to the Agreement)	Soule Islame	
UNDC	Mohamed Abdou Soimadou	
SHAWIRI	Hadji Ben Said	
RPC	Mohamed Siradji	
MCR	Darousse Maka	
UMMA	Moussa Issihaka	
Mouvement Wangazidja	Moubine Abdou Chakour	
Mouvement Populaire de Ngazidja	Hamidou Abdou	
NG	Mohamed Youssouf	
UFCD (civil society organization)	Ms. Sitti Sagaf	
Collective of the community of Ngazidja, in Anjouan	Saindou Djazila	
Nouvelle Génération Ngazidja	Said Habib	
RDR	Youssof Mohamed (illegible)	